

He admits, in a note, that it is not likely that any one could be found to espouse the cause of what he calls materialism. The most effective answer he has to give to "monistic spiritualism," that if consistently argued out it would lead to solipsism, applies rather to idealism than to the animism against which the rest of his argument is directed. To his polemic against monism it might be objected, as to that against materialism, that no one would be found to defend the views attacked—at least, surely no one who believed, not only in body and mind, but in a third entity also, which is neither (even if this entity is "unknown and unknowable"), could call himself a *Monist*. Monism, as ordinarily understood, is the view, or hypothesis, that the *Träger* of conscious states is just the brain, and nothing else, and conversely that consciousness is a manifestation or aspect of certain brain activities. No third being is required where not even two are postulated. The rest of the argument against monism is to the effect that the supposed psycho-physical parallelism is not completely proven—which may be admitted—and even that in some cases it can be shown not to exist, a point on which Prof. Ladd's arguments hardly seem conclusive. The weakest part of the argument, however, is the implied idea, so common in philosophical discussions, that a meta-physical theory to be accepted ought to be capable of rigid demonstration, instead of being of the nature of an hypothesis postulated to explain the facts of consciousness, which can never be absolutely proved, but may be believed in with greater or less strength of conviction. It is therefore no argument against the monistic hypothesis to say we cannot yet, and probably never will be able to, trace the psycho-physical parallelism everywhere.

The most curious thing in the book remains, however, to be told. In its last pages the author admits not only that "this dualism is not the final word," but that "it must undoubtedly be dissolved in some ultimate monistic solution"! And it must be a little annoying to the monists, whom he has so bitterly attacked, to find that this is a problem which "this treatise hands over to the larger and all-inclusive domain of philosophy."

EDWARD T. DIXON.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Story of "Primitive" Man. By Edward Clodd. Pp. 206. (London: George Newnes, Limited, 1895.)

A BOOK such as this forms a useful stepping-stone to higher knowledge; it creates interest, and develops a desire for further information, therefore it possesses the chief qualities that go to make a good book for the average man. For the reader who wishes to know more about the subject than can be compressed in two hundred small pages, a list of books is given at the end of the volume. The illustrations are numerous, but some of these are badly printed. The text is very attractively written, scarcely a sentence being beyond the comprehension of the popular mind. Though the story is briefly told, we have no doubt it will prove interesting to a wide circle of readers. It may be well to point out that the remarks with reference to the chipped flints found in what was believed to be an Upper Miocene deposit in Further India (pp. 23, 24), will need modification when the book comes to a second edition, the bed in which the flints occur having been shown to be Pliocene (see *NATURE*, vol. li. p. 608).

NO. 1338, VOL. 52]

Britain's Naval Power. By Hamilton Williams. (London: Macmillan, 1894.)

THIS little volume ought to prove very useful to those who wish to know the chief events in the rise of Britain's naval power, without having to plod through details of little consequence. All the great battles are described, and plans of the actions are supplied with them. Celebrated single actions are also mentioned, and although, as the author himself states, some parts require revision and slight corrections, the volume is altogether a light and readable history of the first line of defence, to be commended to every one who desires to know something about naval battles without undertaking a systematic study of the subject.

Portraits berühmter Naturforscher. (Wien und Leipzig: A. Pichler's Witwe und Sohn.)

THE forty-eight portraits which, with short biographical sketches, make up this album, represent well-known men of science of the past and the present. With one or two exceptions, the plates are finely engraved from good portraits. Among our own countrymen in the collection are Darwin, Faraday, Sir William Herschel, Newton, Lord Kelvin (who is given his old and better-known name), and Tyndall.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

Discovery of Aboriginal Indian Remains in Jamaica.

THE island of Jamaica, at the time of its discovery by Columbus in 1494, is estimated to have been inhabited by about 600,000 natives, belonging to the race of the Arawáks—a people of simple habits and of a peaceable disposition. The barbarous and cruel treatment of these Indians by their Spanish conquerors, so rapidly decreased their numbers, that in 1655, the date of the conquest of the island by the English, it is probable that not a single specimen of the original type of inhabitant remained alive. Very little was left behind as a record that ever such a race existed here. A few pieces of earthenware showing very primitive ornamentation, and a few flint implements and beads, are practically all that remain to represent their arts and manufactures. Parts of the interior of the country are formed of Miocene limestone, and in this, many caves are to be found. Most of them have, however, yielded little of interest. In one, at Pedro Bluff, the only two aboriginal skulls hitherto known were found. These were submitted to Sir William Flower, and show a frontal compression with corresponding lateral expansion, a deformation produced artificially during infancy by the former inhabitants of the West Indian islands. A kitchen-midden at Northbrook, investigated by Lady Blake, has yielded pieces of ancient pottery, flint implements, shells, and bones of the Jamaica coney, *Capromys brachyurus*, Hill.

Great interest has been aroused in the island within the past few weeks by the discovery of a cave containing the skeletons of at least twenty-four individuals; the ages varying from that of a child with the permanent dentition not yet appearing, to that of aged persons with the teeth-sockets obliterated. Many of the skulls in their depressed frontal region resemble those from Pedro Bluff, and are, no doubt, aboriginal in type. There is, however, considerable variation in the amount of compression. Four of the skulls have been taken to England by Mr. Cundall, the Secretary of the Jamaica Institute, to be submitted to Sir William Flower.

A somewhat shattered canoe, about 7 feet long and 1½ feet wide, made of cedar-wood, was lying above many of the skeletons. An outer portion of the trunk of an *arbor-vita*, probably serving at one time as a "mortar," scarcely shows any signs of decay, as a result of the three or four hundred years it may have been in the cave. Among the remains were also obtained the perfect skulls and other parts of the skeleton of two coneys; two large marine shells (*Fusus* and *Murex*), soft parts of which are still eaten by the natives; numerous land shells (*Helix*), and insect remains.

Two small, nearly perfect, earthenware vessels were also found, similar to those known to have been made by the Arawáks. One of these *sappooras* is oval in shape, 7 inches in length and 2 inches high, with a rude handle at each end; the other is round, with a small ledge below the upper margin. Along with these were fragments of pottery belonging to a much larger specimen.

The cave was discovered by the Rev. W. W. Rumsey on the Halberstadt estate belonging to Mr. Gossett. It is in a wild rocky part of the Port Royal Mountains, at a height of about 2000 feet above the sea. The narrow entrance in the face of the hill-side was blocked by boulders of limestone. On removing these, a cavern with waterworn sides, partially covered with stalactitic deposits, was displayed, penetrating into the rock for a distance of about 20 feet, and in some places two or three feet high. The floor is covered with a deposit about 12 inches thick, of a fine, light yellowish dust, but the remains were superficial.

The size of the cave is not such as could possibly contain the whole of the individuals when alive, so that it is probable that it must have been used at one time as a burial-place; while the presence of the canoe, mortar, earthenware, coney bones, marine shells, and a flint implement, is suggestive that some of the people may have lived or fled there for safety, and perhaps been immured by their destroyers, the Spaniards. Whatever may be the explanation of their occurrence, the acquisition of the remains, which have been presented to the Museum, will be a great addition to the archaeology of Jamaica.

Museum, Jamaica, May 28.

J. E. DUERDEN.

The Antiquity of the Medical Profession.

WITH reference to Mr. H. Spencer's article on the evolution of the medical profession, in the *Contemporary Review* for June, it may be inferred that his remarks should only apply to its historical state in Britain, and not to that in European countries.

It may be pointed out that the profession had existed many centuries before that epoch in the Roman and Grecian nations, as may be seen by any one in looking over Lemprière's Dictionaries.

We have their medical works handed down to us in Celsus (14 A.D.) and Hippocrates (422 B.C.); likewise the Greek army at Troy (1184 B.C.) had military surgeons (Machaon); and Prof. Simpson had discoursed on those in the Roman armies—papers indicated 1856.

See also Dr. Smith's Dictionary, "Greek and Roman Antiquities," for articles on the subjects under:—Art. Medicus, art. Medicina, art. Chirurgia, art. Physiologia.

The art of medicine seems to have been ushered off the stage in the Dark Ages, and to have been consigned to the care of the monasteries and monks for a long period.

It would seem then, from history, that the medical profession is quite as old as either that of theology or law.

Edinburgh, June 17.

W. G. BLACK.

A History of British Earthquakes.

ON two or three occasions you have allowed me to ask the readers of NATURE for aid in studying recent British earthquakes, and I have gratefully to acknowledge the valuable assistance which I have thus obtained.

If I might trespass once more upon your space, I should be glad to mention that I am now preparing a history of British earthquakes during the nineteenth century, and would thankfully receive notices of any shocks, either past or future, which your readers may be able and willing to send me. Extracts from provincial newspapers, from private diaries, or from any other trustworthy source, would be most useful.

With a view to aiding in the more careful observation of earthquakes in the future, I have drawn up a short paper of suggestions, and this I shall be happy to send to any one who may wish for it on receipt of his name and address. Those who desire to examine accounts of recent earthquakes in this country, I may refer to the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society for 1894, the *Quarterly Journal* of the Geological Society for 1891, and the *Geological Magazine* for 1891-1893.

CHARLES DAVISON.
373, Gillott Road, Birmingham, June 17.

TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

IT would have been expected that the various terms of imprisonment awarded by judges should fall into a continuous series. Such, however, is not the case, as is shown by Table I., which is derived from a Parliamentary Blue-book recently published under the title of "Part I.—Criminal Statistics," p. 215. The original has been considerably reduced in size; first, by limiting the extracted data to sentences passed on male prisoners without the option of a fine, and, secondly, by entering the number of sentences to the nearest tenth or hundredth, as stated in the headings to the columns. The material dealt with is thereby more homogeneous than in the original, and its significance is more easily seen. The number of cases is amply sufficient to afford a solid base for broad conclusions, there being in round numbers 830 sentences for various terms of years, 10,540 for various terms of months, and 43,300 for various terms of weeks. The diagram drawn from Table I. gives a still clearer view of the distribution of these sentences:—

TABLE I.—Distribution of Sentences.

Length of sentence.	One tenth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.		Length of sentence.	One tenth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.		Length of sentence.	One tenth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.		Length of sentence.	One hundredth (to nearest integer) of the number of sentences.	
	Recorded.	Smoothed.		Recorded.	Smoothed.		Recorded.	Smoothed.		Recorded.	Smoothed.
Years.			Months.			Months.			Weeks.		
16—	0		24—	5	1	10—	9	34	11—	0	0
15—	1		23—	0	2	9—	59	40	10—	1	5
14—	1		22—	1	2	8—	21	47	9—	33	9
13—	0		21—	2	3	7—	13	56	8—	10	14
12—	1		20—	3	4	6—	185	65	7—	2	21
11—	0	1	19—	2	5	5—	26	81	6—	23	30
10—	3	1	18—	30	6	4—	112	102	5—	77	40
9—	0	2	17—	0	9	3—	480	480	4—	35	52
8—	1	3	16—	3	12				3—	37	67
7—	8	4	15—	16	14				2—	118	85
6—	2	7	14—	3	17				1—	97	110
5—	24	10	13—	4	20						
4—	6	19	12—	79	25						
3—	36	36	11—	1	29						
	83	83		149	149		905	905		433	433

NOTE.—In reading the table, "16—" means "16 and above 15"; "15—" means "15 and above 14"; &c. The number of these intermediate cases are presumably insignificant; they are not noticed in the diagram, where all cases are referred to the upper of their limiting values.